

to be a model for America and eventually the world, a model for leadership, for community-based solutions, and for intervention. We got to work right away, working with many of my colleagues, Congressman WAXMAN in the lead on our Banking Committee; Congressmen McDERMOTT, SCHUMER and FRANK working on our Housing Opportunities With People With Aids; Congresswoman, now Senator, BOXER, again, working with Congressman WAXMAN creating the Ryan White CARE Act to provide health care and support services for people with HIV and AIDS.

Just as this was all going on, at the very beginning of my tenure in Congress, I measure things that way, a gentleman named Cleve Jones from San Francisco came to me and said we want to have a press conference at your home to announce something called the Names Project. What that would be is that people would make a patch for a giant quilt in honor of a friend, a family member, a loved one who had died of AIDS.

I, being the mother of five and taught to sew in my Catholic school upbringing, said, Sew? Nobody's going to sew. Nobody sews anymore. I have four daughters and one son. I don't sew and I know how to sew. But I was wrong and he was right. And what started that day as us taking a few stitches with then-mayor of San Francisco Art Agnos and Cleve Jones turned into this giant Names Project that has been displayed on the Mall here in Washington. It is indeed a wonder of the world.

Sadly, though, as the quilt grew, so did the recognition of the many lives that were taken or lost from HIV and AIDS.

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Next in San Francisco, we created the AIDS Memorial Grove and then designated a national memorial to the thousands of Americans who have died of AIDS. It was really a remarkable thing in our city of San Francisco. Although the numbers were staggering, every diagnosis was an individual one and a personal one, and we had to measure the success of what we were doing as to what it meant to the lives of each person infected with HIV or to the next stage of AIDS.

We recognized that if we were going to have an appropriate response to AIDS, that it had to be international, and thus was started by Paul Boneberg, a person in San Francisco, The International Mobilization Against AIDS. This was many years ago.

Fast forward to now. This year, we have an essential responsibility to continue these efforts by reauthorizing the Ryan White Care Act and then supporting what works by making serious investments in it.

Twenty-five years ago when we heard about the symptoms that would become known as AIDS, and 19 years ago when I first came to Congress, I never thought that we would be standing

here today without a cure. Five years from now, on the 30th anniversary, I pray that we can say that AIDS is a terrible, terrible memory; that we have prevented deaths, ended the epidemic, and found a cure. This is especially true not only in our country but throughout the world where many children are affected by the deaths of their parents, being orphaned, and by their own infections as well.

With a group of my colleagues, I visited South Africa and other countries in Africa, but particularly in South Africa we visited the AIDS clinic and saw the important work that was being done there on that continent. It is taking a terrible toll in terms of lives and hopes and dreams and aspirations. I hope that we will soon be able to say that AIDS taught us how to love each other more but that we will never see it again.

Again, I call to the attention of my colleagues the 25th anniversary of the first diagnosis of AIDS, and hope that a cure will be right around the corner.

TAX CUTS PROVIDE BOOST TO ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we address our agenda as Republicans, and what we have done as a majority in this House. We have controlled both the House, the Senate, and the White House.

Mr. Speaker, the American people and my constituents, in particular, have been asking, what have you done? What have you achieved for us? And I want to tell you tonight the center of what we have achieved as Republicans, Mr. Speaker, is an economic growth that has been unrivaled in our Nation's history, and at the center of that economic growth are tax cuts. Those tax cuts have fueled our economic recovery over the last 6 years.

Mr. Speaker, Republican tax cuts have made an enormous difference. And let us talk about this. One hundred eleven million American taxpayers have seen their taxes decline by an average of \$1,877, and for the average family that is real money. Here in Washington, D.C. they spend that in a minute, but at home in my district, in Cherryville, North Carolina, that is real money. That is real money for an American family, a family in Cherryville or in Hickory or in Morrisville, to spend on textbooks, clothes, maybe even a vacation, Mr. Speaker. That has fueled our economic recovery, the fact that the American people have more in their own pocket now than they did 6 years ago.

I will also say that a family of four earning \$40,000 received a tax relief because of President Bush's tax cuts and Republican leadership in the House, they have received a tax cut of \$2,010

per year, Mr. Speaker. That is for a family of four making \$40,000 a year. That is a wonderful, wonderful thing that we have allowed the American people to keep more of what they earned.

Well, what we are trying to do now, what this Republican Congress is trying to do with the help of our President is not only extend the tax cuts, which I am very proud that we were able to enact just a few weeks ago; we extended the President's tax cuts for 2 more years, but to make it permanent. And what would making those tax cuts permanent do for the American people? Well, in my State of North Carolina, between now and 2014 we would produce 22,000 new jobs because of extending and making permanent the President's tax cuts.

Our annual GDP would grow by over \$111 billion higher, after inflation, if we make the President's tax cuts permanent. Personal savings will grow by \$163 billion per year on average over the next decade if we make the President's tax cuts permanent. And personal income will grow in the State of North Carolina on average by \$4,000 a year. Disposable income, that is, Mr. Speaker. And beyond that, we are going to see the economy continue to grow if we are able to extend these tax cuts, and a strong economy will spread prosperity more evenly throughout our economy, and that is very important. The American people having more money in their pocket is a very vital thing. That is a very vital thing.

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been four square against this. Why? They think of government solutions as the only alternative, Mr. Speaker. And I would say that it is important that we come together as a body and say that reducing the size and scope of government is a good thing. Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have stood in the way of progress in terms of tax cuts. Most of them, a majority, have opposed tax cuts here on this House floor, not just for the last 5 or 6 years during the President's term, but over the course of the Republican majority for the last 12 years. Why Mr. Speaker? Because they want more revenue for government. They want government to expand.

Beyond that, Republicans have worked very hard at growing this economy in other ways. Not only have we cut taxes which has led to greater economic growth, but we are trying to increase the supply of oil, gasoline, and natural gas for all Americans, and look at alternative energies. And the Democrats have stood in our way in terms of energy policies as well. And I would encourage them to join with the Republican majority and do what is right, expand our energy supply and continue to cut taxes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNGSTOWN CONNECTION

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Youngstown Connection. This group of exceptional students from the Youngstown city schools serves as ambassadors of our valley throughout the Nation and the world.

The Youngstown Connection is comprised of 12 high school students from Youngstown city schools. They are skilled in all areas of the performing arts including theater, dance, and music.

The talents of the Youngstown Connection have been showcased at National venues, including the Kennedy Center and the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., the Lincoln Center, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City. Across the globe they have performed at the World War II D-Day commemorations in Normandy, Paris, and London, Austria's Millennial Celebration of Music in Vienna, and the Berlin Wall Freedom Celebration in cities throughout Germany.

Many of the students come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, and through the Youngstown Connection they are able to explore opportunities they may not have otherwise been granted.

It has been widely reported, Mr. Speaker, that students of the arts continue to outperform their peers who for one reason or another have not taken courses in the arts. According to the College Entrants Examination Board, in 2005 SAT scores of students with coursework or experience in the arts scored between 25 and 65 points higher in the verbal section and an average of 28 points higher in the math section than those with no arts coursework. 100 percent of Youngstown Connection students graduate from high school, and 97 percent go on to graduate from college. The focus, the discipline, and the motivation the students gain throughout these experiences in the Youngstown Connection remains with them throughout their lives.

Today, Mr. Speaker, several alumni of the program are at the top of their career fields, including several professional performers. Lawrence Brownlee, who went on to gain a Master of Music degree from Indiana University, is an opera singer who is considered one of the top young tenors in the entire world. He has performed in every major opera house worldwide and currently has a contract with the Metropolitan

Opera. Another Youngstown Connection alumnus, Timothy Gordon, is a professional dancer and teacher in New York who has performed with, amongst others, Alicia Keys. Three former alumni are currently pursuing Ph.D.'s from universities across the country in fields such as cancer and heart research.

Mr. Speaker, all children in every school need the same opportunities as these kids. Imagine the potential that could be unleashed across the country. Let us give these kids the opportunity that they deserve. These students learn the value of giving back to their community through service projects to help the homeless. The group also raises their own funds for travel, costumes, and other expenses through the use of fund-raising activities and generous donations from private citizens and groups. The Youngstown Connection provides these young adults with the opportunity to share their love of the arts and promote the message of brotherhood and peace throughout the world.

I am proud of the Youngstown Connection, Mr. Speaker, and because of them the future of our community in northeast Ohio and the country is in good hands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BADMAN VS. LAWMAN—A TRIBUTE TO TEXAS PEACE OFFICER DALE GEDDIE

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I request permission to take Mr. BURTON's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it is the kind of ammunition you would expect a foreign insurgent to have, 150 armor piercing bullets and a rifle. But it was all too familiar what happened in this event. This individual with all this fire power being a bad father and a bad husband, he was pitted against police and his own family. He held them hostage, then lashing out at the lawmen sent to rescue his family. This domestic disturbance ended fatally, just as too many domestic disturbances end.

After threatening his wife, this family terrorist, Joseph Earl Walsh, turned his blazing gun on a well-known and well-loved peace officer, a servant of the people, leaving him to die while holding fellow peace officers at bay. This stand-off would last more than 3 hours, and when the dust and gun powder cleared the skies, East Texas Constable Dale Geddie of Tyler, Texas would be found murdered.

As a constable, Geddie was more than a law officer, he was an officer of the people. He carried a charge that dates all the way back to the Father of Texas, Stephen F. Austin, who started this band of lawmen to protect Texas settlers from the Indians. Constables are an elite corps of cowboy-lawmen, part of an organization really older than Texas Rangers. They date back to before the days of the Republic of Texas. And Constable Dale Geddie was known for upholding the charge to protect and serve.

He was a fine lawman and a fine human being. Friends have said that if you knew Dale, he was your friend for life. He was the guy who would take off his boots and give them to you if you needed them. Now it is Constable Dale Geddie's family, his wife and his two sons, who will need help during the loss of their good father and their good husband. Their father's fellow peace officers, with their badges draped in the black cloth of sacrifice, their hearts bruised, have lost a friend, a leader, and a hero.

Today we remember Constable Dale Geddie, his family and friends and fellow Texas lawmen, and as we remember them we also remember Smith County Sheriff's Deputy Daniel Leon, who was also injured in this attack. Today we pause to say a prayer and give praise to all the other lawmen across the country who face the forces of evil, evil that hides in the hardened hearts of the heathen.

Mr. Speaker, peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between the people and the lawless. Constable Dale Geddie was one of those peace officers.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON THE PASSING OF GEORGE DUNNE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of Mr. BROWN.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, last week George William Dunne, one of the giant figures of Chicago and Cook County politics in the last half of the 20th century passed at age 93.

George Dunne came from humble circumstances, the son of Irish immigrants. He graduated from De La Salle Institute on Chicago's South Side, the alma mater of such stalwarts of Cook County politics as Mayor Martin Kennelly, Cook County board president Dan Ryan, and Mayor Richard J. Daley.